

THE BOROUGH of DUNHEVED
otherwise
LAUNCESTON.

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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH
for the year
1939.



To:-

The Mayor & Councillors of the Borough of Dunheved
otherwise Launceston.

My Mayor & Gentlemen,

23 MAR 1941

After long delay, I have pleasure in presenting my
Annual Report for the year 1939.

As I mentioned at the last Monthly Meeting of the Council,
by direction of the Minister of Health the Annual Reports of
Medical Officers are to be in the nature of Interim Reports for
the period of the War. All records are to be preserved in order
that after the war a report could be made dealing more fully
with the period from the beginning of 1939 to the end of the
last complete year.

1939 will be remembered, of course, for the fact that it
marked the outbreak of hostilities between the Allies and Nazism.

In this respect it is a matter for congratulation of Your
Council that as early as February, Air Raid Precautions were
being provided for.

Incidentally, I promised, at your last Meeting that I would
present this report by the following Friday, but owing to a
series of "Alerts" during which I have to be on duty with the
Mobile First Aid Post I was unable to fulfil my promise.

I am, Sirs,

Your Obedient Servant,

Walter H.A. Gellman

Medical Officer of Health for

The Borough of Dunheved otherwise Launceston.

SECTION "A".

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Table 1.

Area of the district in acres...	2188.
Population as estimated to Midsummer 1939...	4271.
Rateable Value.	£26,373.
Sum represented by 1d rate ...	£104-6-11.

Table 2.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females.
Total...	22.	22.
Legitimate ...	22.	22.
Illegitimate...	NIL.	

Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population = 10.3

STILL BIRTHS.

NIL.

DEATHS.

	Male. 33.	Females. 32.	Total. 65.
Death rate per 1,000 of resident population	= 15.04		
Deaths from Puerperal Causes...	= Nil.		
Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age:-			
All Infants per 1,000 live births...	22.7		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	= 22.7		
Illegitimate Infants...	Nil.		
Deaths from Cancer (All ages)...	13.		
" " Measles (All ages)...	Nil.		
" " Whooping Cough (All ages)...	Nil.		
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)...	Nil.		

Comparative Rates.

Rates per 1,000 Population.	Launceston.		England & Wales.
	1938	1939	
Live Births.	15.6	10.7	15.0
Still Births. 0.9	Nil.	Nil.	0.59
Deaths from all causes.	13.3	14.1	12.1
Typhoid & Paratyphoid.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Measles.	0.23	Nil.	0.01
Diphtheria.	Nil.	Nil.	0.05
Influenza.	0.23	0.23	0.21
Rates per 1,000 live births.			
Deaths under 1 year.	14.82	22.7	50.0
Deaths from Diarrhoea.	Nil.	Nil.	4.6
Maternal Mortality.	Nil.	Nil.	2.93

Birth Rate. This shows a regrettable decrease as it is much below the rate for last year.

Population. This also has gone down but only by 2.

Infant Mortality. Here we have a large increase due to the fact that it is calculated ~~upon~~ upon the number of live births which is less than last year.

Death Rate. This, calculated upon the resident population, has gone up from 13.3 to 15.04. It should be remembered that by far the majority of deaths in this Borough are aged people.

Cause of Death. The chief causes of death at all ages were:-

	1938:	1939
Cancer...	19.	19.
Respiratory Diseases	9.	13.
Old Age..	7.	6.
Tuberculosis...	2.	1.
Violence.	1.	Nil.
Disease of Kidneys etc.	1.	1.
Congenital Debility..	1.	1.
Influenza	1.	1.

SECTION "B".

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

I. (1) Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Part-Time Officers:-

Douglas H.A. Galbraith M.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Medical Officer of Health and
Medical Officer to Infant Welfare Centre.
Mrs E.A. Luckes C.M.B.
Nurse to Infant Welfare Centre and
Infant Protection Visitor.

Full-Time Officer:-

J.F. Burford M.Inst.M.&Cy.E., M.S.I.A.
Borough Surveyor and
Sanitary Inspector.

- (2) (a) There are no Laboratory Services in the area.
(b) The Ambulance Services remain as before but for A.R.P.
purposes 6 Auxiliary Ambulances are provided.
(c), (d) & (e) There has been no change here.

SECTION "C". SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (1) Water. There were no changes in the sources of supply during 1939. As usual the quality was checked by bacteriological examinations and found satisfactory.
(11) Drainage and Sewerage. These have been attended to as usual and found satisfactory.
2. Rivers and Streams. No serious complaints were received.
3. Other Sanitary Matters. These all received normal attention.
4. Schools. These remain satisfactory.

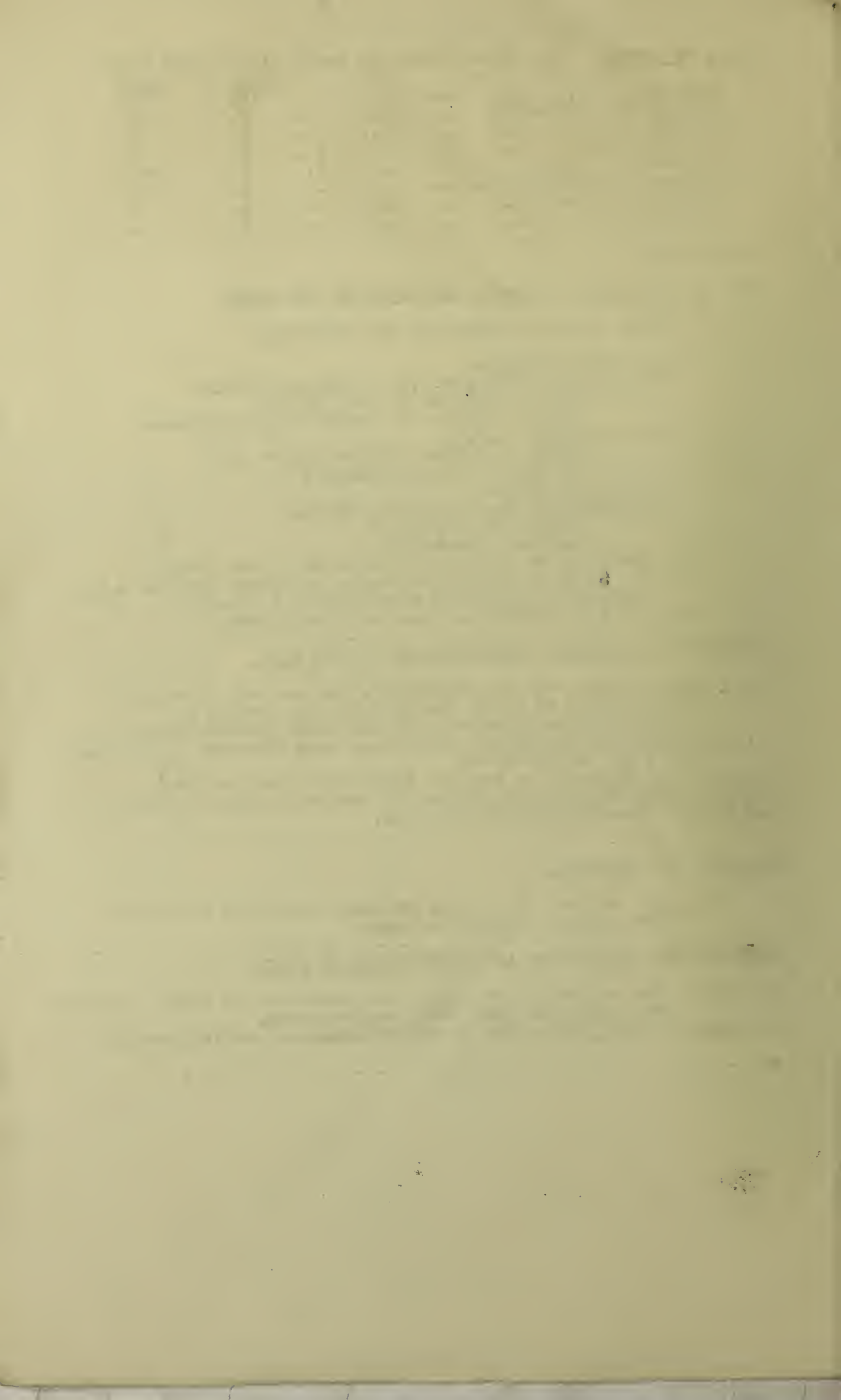
SECTION "D". HOUSING.

No great changes are noted. Evacuees under the Government scheme had not arrived in 1939.

SECTION "E". INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) Milk. The Dairies in the area were inspected as usual and with one exception were found satisfactory.
(b) Meat & Other Foods. The Slaughter-houses are satisfactory.

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SECTION F". PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total number of cases notified during 1939 was 25. This included 3 cases of Tuberculosis and was 10 more than in 1938. The chief causes of the rise were an increase of the cases of Pneumonia and a small outbreak of Scarlet Fever at the end of September.

Table of Notifications according to age etc:-

Disease.	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Total	Deaths
Scarlet Fever.		1				2	1		1				5	Nil.
Pneumonia.				1		2			3	1	3	3	13	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.									2				2	1
Surgical Tuberculosis.										1			1	Nil.
Erysipelas.										2			2	Nil.
Whooping Cough.										1			1	Nil.
Measles.						1								

Tuberculosis.

Only 3 cases were notified during 1939. The ages are shown in the table above. Both the Pulmonary cases were Males while the Surgical Case (Spinal Caries) was a Female.

